



Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife News

August 13, 2013

Around Nebraska...

[Local View: More needed to help state's wind energy.](#) The recent announcement by the Lincoln Electric System that it is buying 100 megawatts of wind energy is a momentous move by Nebraska's third-largest public power district. This is exactly the kind of initiative, innovation and accountability we citizens want from our government institutions. LES is to be saluted.

(http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/editorial/columnists/article_a419ed7f-1e78-5ae9-b318-59e3c8d4d9e1.html#.Ugen_bglp3w.twitter).

[Coalition aims to get Lincoln, Nebraska utility off coal.](#) In a bid to hasten the shift from coal-fired electricity to power from locally-sourced renewables, an initiative is underway in Lincoln, Nebraska, that would make it the first city in the Midwest with a feed-in tariff, or CLEAN program.

(<http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2013/08/09/coalition-aims-to-get-lincoln-nebraska-utility-off-coal/>).

Around the Nation & World...

Wind and Wildlife

[Environmentalists Gearing Up For A War On Wind.](#) The Hill reports that [conservationists are battling an Obama administration rule that would extend permits for wind farms](#) to 30 years from five. The reason: the turbines end up killing bald and golden eagles.

(<http://www.forbes.com/sites/lorenstefy/2013/08/09/environmentalists-gearing-up-for-a-war-on-wind/>).

[Obama in center of fight over bald eagle deaths](http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/pending-regs/316051-obama-in-center-of-green-fight-over-eagle-deaths). Wildlife conservationists are battling an Obama administration rule that would give wind energy companies lengthy permits for wind farms that end up killing bald and golden eagles. (<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/pending-regs/316051-obama-in-center-of-green-fight-over-eagle-deaths>).

[Will Painting Wind Turbine Blades Minimise Bird Collisions?](http://cleantechnica.com/2013/08/07/will-painting-wind-turbine-blades-minimise-bird-collisions/) A new research project has been initiated to determine whether changing the colour of wind turbine blades will have any effect on the number of bird deaths caused by birds unceremoniously careening into the massive blades. (<http://cleantechnica.com/2013/08/07/will-painting-wind-turbine-blades-minimise-bird-collisions/>).

Wildlife

[Western Governors' Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool \(CHAT\) for wildlife nearing completion](http://westgov.org/news/295-news-2013/495-western-governors-crucial-habitat-assessment-tool-chat-wildlife-nearing-completion). The Western Governors' Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT), an online GIS map of wildlife habitat across 16 western states designed to help planners in the energy, transportation and land use arenas, is nearing completion. (<http://westgov.org/news/295-news-2013/495-western-governors-crucial-habitat-assessment-tool-chat-wildlife-nearing-completion>).

[UK bats may be immune to killer fungus](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-23599983). A deadly fungus thought responsible for killing nearly six million bats in North America since 2006 has been found in the UK with no harmful effects. (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-23599983>).

[Mysterious Bat Killer Still Marching Across U.S.](http://news.discovery.com/animals/white-nose-syndrome-bats-130812.htm) The fungus that causes the deadly White Nose Syndrome in bats has been discovered on the wings of four bats in caves in Minnesota, adding another state to the growing list of where the disease has spread. The discovery suggests the fungus is continuing its rapid march north, south and west across North America after being first discovered in 2007 in New York. (<http://news.discovery.com/animals/white-nose-syndrome-bats-130812.htm>).

[Whooping Crane Case Could Affect State Water Supplies](http://www.texastribune.org/2013/08/08/whooping-crane-case-could-impact-state-water-suppl/). As drought conditions and dry forecasts persist across Texas, lawyers will argue a case in front of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on [Thursday](#) that could have major implications for water supplies in the state — and for natural resource planning nationally. (<http://www.texastribune.org/2013/08/08/whooping-crane-case-could-impact-state-water-suppl/>).

Wind

[Wind became leading source of new US generating capacity in 2012: DOE](http://www.platts.com/latest-news/electric-power/washington/wind-became-leading-source-of-new-us-generating-21381199). For the first time ever, wind power became the leading source of new US electricity generation capacity in 2012, according to two Department of Energy reports Tuesday. (<http://www.platts.com/latest-news/electric-power/washington/wind-became-leading-source-of-new-us-generating-21381199>).

[U.S. Energy Consumers Install 62% More Wind Turbines](#). U.S. consumers and businesses installed 175 megawatts of [wind turbines](#) last year to generate their own electricity and reduce their dependence

on utilities, according to the U.S. Energy Department. (<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-08-06/u-s-energy-consumers-install-62-more-wind-turbines.html>).

[Can 'smart' turbines give renewables a second wind?](#) New 'smart' wind turbines combine improved blade designs with batteries that can store electricity when the wind isn't blowing. (<http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2013/0807/Can-smart-turbines-give-renewables-a-second-wind>).

[Wind Technologies Market Report 2012](#) – Infographic. (<https://twitter.com/climateprogress/status/365552522481524736/photo/1>).

[How to power America with renewables on the cheap: Build a ---- ton of wind and solar capacity.](#) America could be powered almost entirely with wind turbines and solar systems by 2030 at a cost comparable to what we're spending for dirty power today, a new study finds. The necessary approach would surprise most people, and it would generate enough economic activity to make any capitalist drool: Build, build, build ... and then build some more. (<http://ht.ly/jEOpX>).

You can check out the article by Cory Budischak et. al 2013 published in the Journal of Power Sources. **[Cost-minimized combinations of wind power, solar power and electrochemical storage, powering the grid up to 99.9% of the time.](#)** (<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378775312014759>).

[Renewable Energy RFPS.](#) Open EI source online for RFPs. (<http://en.openei.org/community/group/renewable-energy-rfps>).

Job Opportunity

[Quantitative Ecologist - focused on wind energy and wildlife.](#) The United States Geological Survey is recruiting a post-doctoral scientist in quantitative ecology for a project focused on developing and testing methods to assess the impacts of wind energy on wildlife at regional to national scales. (http://ornithologyexchange.org/jobs/index.html/_postdoctoral-positions/quantitative-ecologist-focused-on-wind-energy-and-wildlife-r2490).

Upcoming Events

The Wildlife Society Annual Conference will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin October 5-10, 2013. For more information: <http://wildlifesociety.org/>.

Sixth Annual Wind Conference will be held in Lincoln, NE on November 13-15, 2013. This year's theme is "Harvesting Nebraska's Potential." For more information and to register: <http://nebraskawindconference.com/>.

Check out the **Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife Project website** at:
<http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/wind/> and **Wind Energy and Wildlife news** at:
<http://www.scoop.it/t/wind-energy-and-wildlife>.

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